

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for installing hardware components in a computer system, comprising:  
compiling a list of the hardware components;  
5 assigning an installation location for each hardware component of the computer system;  
evaluating the compatibility of each hardware component of the computer system with respect to the other hardware components of the computer system;  
evaluating the compatibility of each hardware component of the computer system  
10 with respect to the base architecture of the computer system;  
identifying in graphical form the assigned installation locations of the hardware components of the computer system following the successful evaluation of the compatibility of the hardware components with respect to (a) the other hardware components of the computer system and  
(b) the base architecture of the computer system; and  
15 installing the hardware components according to the assigned installation locations.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the compatibility of each hardware component of the computer system with respect to the base architecture of the computer system further comprises the step of evaluating the compatibility of the installation location with respect to the selected hardware component.
- 20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the list of hardware components includes custom hardware components selected for installation by the customer of the computer system.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compiling a list of hardware components comprises the step of generating an architecture resource file that includes an identification of the hardware components and base architecture of the computer system.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying instructions identifying incompatible hardware components.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compiling a list of hardware components comprises the step of receiving a customer order and generating a list of hardware components from the customer order.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning an identification number to the computer system.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the identification number is a serial number.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the identification number identifies the assembled hardware components.

10. A computer system, comprising  
a processor;  
a memory;  
a storage device; the computer system having been manufactured in accordance with  
5 a manufacturing process, the manufacturing process comprising:  
compiling a list of the hardware components;  
assigning an installation location for each hardware component of the  
computer system;  
evaluating the compatibility of each hardware component of the computer  
10 system with respect to the other hardware components of the computer system;  
evaluating the compatibility of each hardware component of the computer  
system with respect to the base architecture of the computer system;  
identifying in graphical form the assigned installation locations of the  
hardware components of the computer system following the successful evaluation of the  
15 compatibility of the hardware components with respect to (a) the other hardware components of the  
computer system and (b) the base architecture of the computer system; and  
installing the hardware components according to the assigned installation  
locations.
11. The computer system of claim 10, wherein the hardware components comprise a set  
20 of hardware components that were selected for installation by the customer.

12. A method for assigning installation locations for hardware components in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

receiving a list of hardware components;

evaluating the compatibility of each hardware component;

5 selecting an installation location for each hardware component in the computer system; and

displaying a graphical representation of the installation locations of the hardware components of the computer system.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the set of hardware components includes custom  
10 hardware components selected for installation by the customer of the computer system.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of evaluating the compatibility of each hardware component includes the step of evaluating the compatibility of each component with respect to other hardware components of the computer system and the base architecture of the computer system.